

PATENT

Express Mail No. EV037397381US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent No. : 6,099,402
Issue Date: : August 8, 2000
Patentee : Hiroshi Abe et al.
Application No. : To be assigned
Filed : Herewith
Title : SMALL APPARATUS FOR DISPENSING CIRCULAR PLATE
OBJECTS
Docket No. : ASahi 01-02.RE

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT AND
STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.173(c)**

BOX REISSUE
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Quirk & Tratos, Suite 500 N.
3733 Howard Hughes Pkwy.
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109
February 8, 2002

Commissioner:

A. Status of Claims and Support for Claims Changes

The patent as issued contained 7 claims. All of these claims are pending in the application; none have been canceled. In addition, the application as filed contains new claims 8-11. No amendments have been made with respect to claims 1 through 7 which were in the original patent.

In addition, there are no issues with respect to support in the specification for the new claims. Nonetheless, a copy of the Status of Claims and Support for Claim Changes is attached hereto, with notations adjacent to each claim number indicating the location in the original patent of support for the claim.

B. Preliminary Statement

The subject invention relates to an apparatus for dispensing circular plate objects, such as coins or tokens. The functional elements of the claim are a disc means, means for rotating said disc means, gear means and drive means having a common central-axis line. The original patent claims do not recite the common central-

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axis alignment disclosed in the specification. The patentee believes the common central-axis alignment is unique over the prior art cited and is worthy of patent protection. Similarly, the magnetic cover disc attachment means are not recited in the claims of the original patent but are supported therein.

Claims 1, 2, and 6 of the original patent application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hughes et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,711,704 (the '704 Patent) to Hughes teaches a coin storage and dispensing apparatus. However, the original rejected claims did not recite the common central-axis line present in the apparatus. The common central-axis limitation is present in claims 8-10.

New claim 11 includes a cover disc attachment means consisting of a magnet. The cover disc and disc means combination was originally declared obvious over Hughes et al. in view of Henderickson et al. However, the cited references did not suggest or teach the use of a magnet to attach the cover disc to the disc means. The Examiner indicated that the magnetic attachment means including other limitations of the base claim and intervening claims was allowable subject matter. New claim 11 recites the magnetic attachment means in combination with the additional limitations.

No reference known to applicant discloses an apparatus for dispensing circular plates having a common central-axis line between the disc means, rotating means, gear means and drive means or a magnetic cover disc attachment means.

The patentee is interested in processing the reissue application as quickly as possible. To this end, the examining attorney is invited to telephone the undersigned should any issues remain in the case to see if they can be resolved by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

QUIRK & TRATOS

By: _____

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RLP/bje

Enclosure: Status of Claims and Support for Claim Changes

STATUS OF CLAIMS AND SUPPORT FOR CLAIM CHANGES

CLAIM	STATUS	SUPPORT IN DISCLOSURE FOR CHANGES
1	Pending	
2	Pending	
3	Pending	
4	Pending	
5	Pending	
6	Pending	
7	Pending	
8	New	Column 2, lines 22-25; Column 4, lines 50-57; and Figs. 1, 2 and 3
9	New	Column 3, lines 53-55
10	New	Column 3, lines 23-25; and Figs. 3, 4A and 4B
11	New	Column 5, lines 19-60; and Figs. 6, 7, 8A and 8B

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX REISSUE
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Quirk & Tratos
3733 Howard Hughes Pkwy.
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109
February 8, 2002

Commissioner:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 8-11:

8. (New) An apparatus for dispensing disc bodies comprising:
disc means for dispensing circular disc bodies one by one;
means for rotating said disc means;
planet gear means having a central axis line common with a central axis line of
said means for rotating said disc means; and
driving means having a central axis line common with the central axis line of said
planet gear means.

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9. (New) The apparatus for dispensing disc bodies of claim 8 wherein said means for rotating said disc means is free to move along the common central axis line for engagement with said planet gear means.

10. (New) The apparatus for dispensing disc bodies of claim 8 wherein said disc means is removably connected to said means for rotating said disc means.

11. (New) A dispensing apparatus for the disc bodies comprising:
main disc means which equips a rotating shaft for dispensing the disc body at a center section, said disc means having a through-hole for containing the disc body at a perimeter part and an arm for extruding the disc body at a fringe of an under surface;
a cover disc having a size dependent on a perimeter size of the disc body, said cover equipped with a penetration tube for insertion through said through-hole; and
said disc means fixed to said cover disc by means of a magnet.

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REMARKS

Please enter the amended claims prior to examination of the above-identified application.

Respectfully submitted,

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